

Formulation, Delivery, And Dosing

[0149] The oligonucleotides described herein can be formulated for administration to a subject for treating muscular dystrophies, including DMD, BMD, and myotonic dystrophy. It should be understood that the formulations, compositions and methods can be practiced with any of the oligonucleotides disclosed herein.

[0150] The formulations may conveniently be presented in unit dosage form and may be prepared by any methods well known in the art of pharmacy. The amount of active ingredient (e.g., an oligonucleotide or compound of the invention) which can be combined with a carrier material to produce a single dosage form will vary depending upon the host being treated, the particular mode of administration, e.g., intradermal or inhalation. The amount of active ingredient which can be combined with a carrier material to produce a single dosage form will generally be that amount of the compound which produces a therapeutic effect, e.g. tumor regression.

[0151] Pharmaceutical formulations of this invention can be prepared according to any method known to the art for the manufacture of pharmaceuticals. Such formulations can contain sweetening agents, flavoring agents, coloring agents and preserving agents. A formulation can be admixed with nontoxic pharmaceutically acceptable excipients which are suitable for manufacture. Formulations may comprise one or more diluents, emulsifiers, preservatives, buffers, excipients, etc. and may be provided in such forms as liquids, powders, emulsions, lyophilized powders, sprays, creams, lotions, controlled release formulations, tablets, pills, gels, on patches, in implants, etc.

[0152] A formulated single stranded oligonucleotide composition can assume a variety of states. In some examples, the composition is at least partially crystalline, uniformly crystalline, and/or anhydrous (e.g., less than 80, 50, 30, 20, or 10% water). In another example, the single stranded oligonucleotide is in an aqueous phase, e.g., in a solution that includes water. The aqueous phase or the crystalline compositions can, e.g., be incorporated into a delivery vehicle, e.g., a liposome (particularly for the aqueous phase) or a particle (e.g., a microparticle as can be appropriate for a crystalline composition). Generally, the single stranded oligonucleotide composition is formulated in a manner that is compatible with the intended method of administration.

[0153] In some embodiments, the composition is prepared by at least one of the following methods: spray drying, lyophilization, vacuum drying, evaporation, fluid bed drying, or a combination of these techniques; or sonication with a lipid, freeze-drying, condensation and other self-assembly.

[0154] A single stranded oligonucleotide preparation can be formulated or administered (together or separately) in combination with another agent, e.g., another therapeutic agent or an agent that stabilizes a single stranded oligonucleotide, e.g., a protein that complexes with single stranded oligonucleotide. Still other agents include chelators, e.g., EDTA (e.g., to remove divalent cations such as Mg^{2+}), salts, RNase inhibitors (e.g., a broad specificity RNase inhibitor such as RNasin) and so forth.

[0155] In one embodiment, the single stranded oligonucleotide preparation includes another single stranded oligonucleotide, e.g., a second single stranded oligonucleotide that modulates expression of a second gene or a second single stranded oligonucleotide that modulates expression of the first gene. Still other preparation can include at least 3, 5, ten, twenty, fifty, or a hundred or more different single stranded

oligonucleotide species. Such single stranded oligonucleotides can mediate gene expression with respect to a similar number of different genes. In one embodiment, the single stranded oligonucleotide preparation includes at least a second therapeutic agent (e.g., an agent other than an oligonucleotide).

Route of Delivery

[0156] A composition that includes a single stranded oligonucleotide can be delivered to a subject by a variety of routes. Exemplary routes include: intravenous, intradermal, topical, rectal, parenteral, anal, intravaginal, intranasal, pulmonary, ocular. The term "therapeutically effective amount" is the amount of oligonucleotide present in the composition that is needed to provide the desired level of UTRN expression in the subject to be treated to give the anticipated physiological response. The term "physiologically effective amount" is that amount delivered to a subject to give the desired palliative or curative effect. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" means that the carrier can be administered to a subject with no significant adverse toxicological effects to the subject.

[0157] The single stranded oligonucleotide molecules of the invention can be incorporated into pharmaceutical compositions suitable for administration. Such compositions typically include one or more species of single stranded oligonucleotide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. As used herein the language "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" is intended to include any and all solvents, dispersion media, coatings, antibacterial and antifungal agents, isotonic and absorption delaying agents, and the like, compatible with pharmaceutical administration. The use of such media and agents for pharmaceutically active substances is well known in the art. Except insofar as any conventional media or agent is incompatible with the active compound, use thereof in the compositions is contemplated. Supplementary active compounds can also be incorporated into the compositions.

[0158] The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may be administered in a number of ways depending upon whether local or systemic treatment is desired and upon the area to be treated. Administration may be topical (including ophthalmic, vaginal, rectal, intranasal, transdermal), oral or parenteral. Parenteral administration includes intravenous drip, subcutaneous, intraperitoneal or intramuscular injection, or intrathecal or intraventricular administration.

[0159] The route and site of administration may be chosen to enhance targeting. For example, to target muscle cells, intramuscular injection into the muscles of interest would be a logical choice. Lung cells might be targeted by administering the single stranded oligonucleotide in aerosol form. The vascular endothelial cells could be targeted by coating a balloon catheter with the single stranded oligonucleotide and mechanically introducing the oligonucleotide.

[0160] Topical administration refers to the delivery to a subject by contacting the formulation directly to a surface of the subject. The most common form of topical delivery is to the skin, but a composition disclosed herein can also be directly applied to other surfaces of the body, e.g., to the eye, a mucous membrane, to surfaces of a body cavity or to an internal surface. As mentioned above, the most common topical delivery is to the skin. The term encompasses several routes of administration including, but not limited to, topical and transdermal. These modes of administration typically